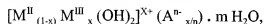


Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1-8. Canceled

9. (Currently amended) A fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation, comprising a layered double hydroxide (LDH), wherein said LDH comprises
comprising exchangeably bound anions in intermediate layers and which
can be represented by the following formula:



in which

M^{II} is a divalent Ca, Mg, Fe, Ni, Zn, Co, Cu, Mn-metal ion, or $2 Li^+$,

M^{III} is a trivalent Al, Fe, Cr or Mn - metal ion,

A^{n-} is a n-valent nitrate, sulfate, chloride or hydroxide anion in the intermediate layer, and

x ranges between 0.1 and 0.5.

10. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation ~~LDH~~ of claim 9, wherein the LDH contains up to about 30% by weight nitrate ions.

11. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of A mixture comprising an LDH according to claim 9 further comprising in combination with auxiliary materials and additives.

12. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of A mixture comprising an LDH according to claim 9 further comprising to which is added an ordinary mixed fertilizer and optionally other fertilizer additives.

13. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of A preparation comprising an LDH according to claim 9, further comprising with at least one selected from seeds, seedlings, or propagation material.

14. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of ~~A~~ preparation according to Claim 13, characterized in that the propagation material, seeds, or seedlings in the preparation are coated with the LDH and optionally with other additives.

15. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner ~~A~~ preparation of claim 9 wherein the LDH is present in liquid form or in solid form.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation ~~LDH~~ of claim 9, wherein the LDH is essentially carbonate-free,
the divalent metal ion is Ca, Mg, Fe, Ni, Zn, Co, Cu, or Mn,
the trivalent metal ion is Al, Fe, Cr or Mn, and
the anion is sulfate, hydroxide, chloride or nitrate.

19. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation ~~LDH~~ of claim 15, wherein the LDH is present in solid form and the solid form is a granulate, a powder or a prill.

20-24. Canceled

25. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of claim 9 ~~LDH of claim 20~~, wherein Aⁿ⁻ is nitrate.

26. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of claim 9 ~~LDH of claim 20~~, wherein Aⁿ⁻ is sulfate.

27. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of claim 9 ~~LDH of claim 20~~, wherein Aⁿ⁻ is chloride.

28. (Currently amended) The fertilizer or soil conditioner preparation of claim 9 ~~LDH of claim 20~~, wherein Aⁿ⁻ is hydroxide.